

**FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN CIRCLE,
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, FOR THE YEAR 1892-93.**

INTRODUCTION.

A new forest year having been introduced under Government Resolution No. 5506 dated 6th July, 1892, results are given in this report for a period extending from 1st April, 1892, to 30th June, 1893.

2. During the year the superior staff was reorganized, and new rules regarding the relations between Revenue- and Forest-Officers were introduced.

3. Under the reorganization of the staff, one Conservatorship was abolished, and the 2nd grade Conservator was reduced to the 3rd grade.

4. The following exhibits the old and the new scale of the upper and lower controlling staff for the whole Presidency:—

Designation.	OLD SCALE.			NEW SCALE.			Monthly increase.	Monthly decrease.
	Num-ber.	Monthly pay of each.	Monthly total.	Num-ber.	Monthly pay of each.	Monthly total.		
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Conservator of Forests, 1st grade ...	1	1,500	1,500	1	1,600	1,600	100	...
Do. Do. 2nd do. ...	1	1,250	1,250	...	...	...	...	1,250
Do. Do. 3rd do. ...	1	1,000	1,000	1	1,100	1,100	100	...
Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st grade ...	2	900	1,800	3	900	2,700	900	...
Do. Do. 2nd do. ...	3	800	2,400	4	800	3,200	800	...
Do. Do. 3rd do. ...	4	650	2,600	8	650	5,200	2,600	...
Do. Do. 4th do. ...	7	550	3,850	7	550	3,850	...	...
Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st grade ...	5	450	2,250	4	450	1,800	...	450
Do. Do. 2nd do. ...	3	350	1,050	3	350	1,050	...	...
Do. Do. 3rd do. ...	2	250	500	...	...	...	...	500
Total ...	29	...	18,200	31	...	20,500	4,500	2,200
Sub-Assistant (now Extra Assistant) Conser- vator of Forests, 1st grade ...	3	200	600	4	350	1,400	800	...
Do. Do. 2nd do. ...	4	175	700	4	300	1,200	500	...
Do. Do. 3rd do. ...	6	150	900	6	250	1,500	600	...
Do. Do. 4th do. ...	...	...	...	5	200	1,000	1,000	...
Total ...	13	...	2,200	19	...	5,100	2,900	...
Grand Total ..	42	...	20,400	50	...	25,600	7,400	2,200
Net monthly increase Rs. ... or Rs. 62,400 annually.							5,200	

5. Settlement-enquiries were completed for 565 square miles of forests and an additional Forest-Settlement-Officer was appointed for Kánara at the close of the year.

6. Lines of demarcation, separating protected from reserved forest, and aggregating 129 miles in length, were cut and surveyed in the Central and Southern Divisions of Kánara.

7. The Imperial Forest-Survey-Party continued their operations in Kánara and Kolába, and 263 square miles were surveyed at a cost of Rs. 30,631.

8. The work accomplished by the Working Plans' Branch comprised the differentiation and collection of *data* for 19,993 acres of forests in Kánara, at a cost of Rs. 33,991.

9. 589 criminal cases were taken into Court, against 249 in 1891-92, and 909 were compounded by Forest-Officers, against 803 in 1891-92. The increase was satisfactorily accounted for.

10. An appeal was made by one Antáji Támbe from a decision in a case involving the question of the right of Government to teak in occupied *khoti*-lands, and the High Court decided in favour of the *khót*. The circumstances of this case were, however, considered peculiar, and the decision is not, therefore, accepted as a precedent in all cases of a similar nature.

11. Special measures of fire-protection were adopted, and 1,219 square miles were satisfactorily protected.

12. The area closed to all animals was 700 square miles, to browsers 762 square miles, and that open to all animals 3,821 square miles.

13. The number of cattle impounded for trespassing in closed forests amounted to 2,789 as against 4,283 for 1891-92.

14. Natural reproduction was, on the whole, satisfactory in fire-protected areas.

15. The quantity of timber exploited was curtailed because there was a large balance on hand from the previous year's yield, the whole of which could not be sold in that year, owing, apparently, to the poor demand consequent on the agricultural distress that prevailed in parts of the Southern Marátha Country.

16. The myrobollam-collection of the year under report was very poor, owing to the crops having been spoiled by October-rains.

17. The financial results of the year were, on the whole, favourable. Both the gross and net revenues of the year 1892-93 were larger than those of the year before. The receipts of the period under report (April 1, 1892, to June 30, 1893) amounted to Rs. 13,84,371 and the charges to Rs. 8,19,142.

This is the first report submitted to Government under the revised Forest-Code, in which a more elaborate account than that prescribed under the older form is contemplated. The consequence is that I have exceeded the limit of 20 pages.

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i). ALTERATION OF AREA.

(ii). FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

18. The following table shows the forest-area of the Southern Circle for 1892-93 :—

District.	Area on 1st April 1892.		Added during the year.		Excluded or transferred to other heads.		Area on 30th June 1893.		Total Forest Area.
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	
	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.
Kánara	754 78	2,793 357	0 504	1 333	0 128	0 421	754 454	2,794 269	3,549 85
Belgaum	494 362	196 572	...	...	...	...	494 362	196 572	691 294
Dhárwár	171 410	260 258	...	...	...	...	171 410	260 258	432 28
Bijápúr	155 76	89 409	...	...	...	...	155 78	89 409	244 485
Kolába	381 286	63 582	...	0 6	...	...	381 284	63 588	445 234
Ratnágiri	20 80	...	...	...	...	...	20 80	...	20 80
Total	1,977 12	3,404 258	0 504	1 339	0 128	0 421	1,977 388	3,405 176	5,382 564

19. 504 acres were "Reserved," and 1 square mile 333 acres "Protected," in Kánara; 6 acres were added to the "Protected" forests in Kolába; while 128 acres and 421 acres were, respectively, disforested in the "Reserved" and "Protected" forests of Kánara, owing chiefly to mistakes in the original lists, which were rectified.

Kánara.

20. Mr. Sheppard, I. C. S., continued to be Forest-Settlement-Officer, Kánara, and completed the field-work connected with 7 villages of Kárwár and 168 of Sirsi, having a forest area of 23.59 square miles and 431.28 square miles, respectively. The final reports on these forests will, it is expected, be sent in during the present season.